THE
LIFE
OF
Colonel *Don Franciſco.*

CONTAINING

The whole Series of the moſt remarkable and unprecedented Actions from his Birth to the Time of his receiving Sentence of Death for a Rape.

To which is prefixed, as an Ornament,

The Effigy (curiouſly engraven) of Colonel *Francis Chartres,* now under Sentence of Death in *Newgate* for the like Fact.

Si quis, qui, quid agam forte requirit, Erit
Vivere me dices ſalvum tamen eſſe Negabis.

LONDON:

Printed for the Author, and ſold by the Book-ſellers, Pamphlet-ſellers and Hawkers.

Price One Shilling.

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Colonel Don Francisco.

CONTAINING

The whole Scope of his most remarkable and unprecedented Actions from his Birth to the Time of his [illegible] Sentence of Death by a Rope.

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To which is prefix'd an Original

The Effigy (curiously engraven) of Colonel Francis Charteris, now under Sentence of Death in Newgate for the like Fact.

Si quis eum quid quam fore roget, Dirit
Fiscus, ere alio Jubeam tendere te Negat.

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THE

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OF

Colonel *Don Franciſco.*

THE Perſon that I am going to treat of is a Gentleman of a moderate Family. He was born in the Metropolis of the Northern Part of the Kingdom. His Parents gave him a liberal Education according to their Abilities; had he improv'd their generous and well concerted Deſigns, he might have been happy at this preſent time; but as his deprav'd Nature has laid him open to ſeveral Calamities, Humanity obliges us to pity, but not cenſure his Conduct.

I hope my Readers will excuſe me as to Particulars, becauſe where a Man has Affluence and Inclination enough to be vexatious, no conſiderate Perſon can juſtly blame me (as Self-Preſervation is the firſt Principle of Nature) for being cautious in this Affair, eſpecially

when his profligate Courſe of Life, and the many unparallel'd and unprecedented Facts which are herein related, will ſufficiently point out the Man. The *Egyptian Magi* diſcovered their Sentiments by Hieroglyphicks, our modern Sages have writ in obſcure unintelligible Terms, to avoid the Penalties the Law preſcribes; ſince therefore it is a common and neceſſary Work, let no Critick cenſure my Performance; I write only by Imitation.

It ſeems Fortune from the Beginning deſign'd him for a great Man; a Man of ſix Foot proportion'd every way, is a tall proper Perſon, fit for the Service of his Country, either in the Horſe or Foot. This Qualification he was ſenſible would deſervedly recommend him; he therefore wiſely reſolv'd to quit his Study, and turn *Martinite*; he had an utter Averſion to Birch, as having often experienc'd the Severity of his Scholaſtick Diſcipline. He rather choſe to truſt his Carcaſs to the Terrors and Dangers (tho' it ſeems he was not very fond of either) of the bloody Field, than expoſe his Poſteriors to the capricious Humour and mercileſs Rage of a Pedantick Schoolmaſter, to whoſe ſolid Dictates and moral Precepts, which were only calculated for his future Benefit and Advantage, his roving Diſpoſition would not admit of a Paſſive Obedience.

Upon theſe Conſiderations, and the ambitious Views of Preferment, he plays truant, and voluntarily liſts himſelf in that Regiment of Horſe, commonly diſtinguiſh'd by the Name of the Blue Guards; the Regiment at that time being juſt return'd from the Battle of *Aghrim* in the Kingdom of *Ireland*. As they were oblig'd to recruit and fill up the Regiment as ſoon as poſſible, every Perſon that was duly

 qualified

qualified was admitted without Fee or Reward; for at that critical time, Stations in that Regiment were neither bought or sold; for which reason they readily accepted of *Don Francisco* into their Society, and he was clothed and mounted accordingly.

Accouter'd in his Habiliments of War, his Lac'd Belt and Hat, Broad Sword and Blue Livery, he resolv'd to visit his *Quondam* Schoolmaster; he was no sooner enter'd into the School, but he march'd directly to salute him. The venerable old Gentleman was not a little surpriz'd to see a *Martinite* in all his Pomp and Pride approach his Presence, not considering that his truant Scholar was cloak'd under that terrible Disguise; but upon viewing him narrowly, as he approach'd his Presence, he discovered that it was *Francisco* that was metamorphis'd into a Warriour; however, he resolv'd to carry on the Jest, and to make him at first believe that he was a Stranger to his Person and his outward Appearance.

As soon as *Francisco* came near enough to be heard, he salutes him, and with a boon Air and graceful Mein, he thus address'd him: *Master, I am your humble Servant.* The venerable old Gentleman reply'd, *Pardon me, Sir, you have the Advantage of me, tho' methinks I should know that Face. What Sir! Do you not remember your Scholar* Francisco? *I remember*, said the Master, *that I had a Scholar which was so call'd, who play'd truant and run away from his School, and since you have surrender'd at Discretion, I think it expedient that you should have such necessary Punishment, which your Crime has justly deserv'd*; and making the usual Signal, our Heroe was immediately surrounded by a strong *Posse Comitatus* of the sturdiest Boys in the School, who laid

violent Hands on *Franciſco*, and ſoon diveſted him of his Habiliments of War.

He began at firſt to expoſtulate with his Maſter; he aſſur'd, that he was not under his Juriſdiction, and therefore adviſ'd him to be cautious what he did, or how he treated a Gentleman like a Schoolboy. But that Language not prevaling, he chang'd his Note; he began to cry *peccavi*, and beg for Quarter; but his Prayers, Intreaties, and Supplications could not procure a *Noli Proſequi*, for he was hors'd upon the Back of the luſtieſt Boys in the School, who (notwithſtanding his Endeavours to diſengage himſelf) held him faſt till his Schoolmaſter was ſufficiently reveng'd on his Poſteriors: Had his Toes been as well furniſh'd as his Heels, 'tis probable he might have diſengag'd himſelf; but as he was mounted, his Spurs were of little uſe to him.

'Tis probable that he began to reflect on his Conduct when the Fame of this Adventure was ſpread abroad, becauſe every body that knew him had a Fling at him; but Time, which wears out all things, ſoon brought this Diſgrace to a Period, and he once more appear'd as gay and as facetious in Converſation as ever.

He now began to think what Courſe to take to ſupport his Extravagance; he found by Experience, that a Trooper's Pay was but a ſcanty Proviſion, a poor Allowance for an ambitious Man, a Perſon that had a mind to make a Figure in the World; he rack'd his Thoughts and his Invention to find out Ways and Means to ſupply his Neceſſities: At laſt he wiſely determin'd to aſſociate himſelf with the Sharpers about the Town, by whoſe Inſtructions he conceiv'd he could eaſily learn the Art and Myſtery of Gaming, and this he thought the moſt

plauſible Method to raiſe himſelf, and get him a competent livelihood: In order to accompliſh his Deſigns, he frequents the moſt noted Gaming-houſes about the Town, where he often ſtood the beſt of the Lay; and, by degrees, had introduced himſelf into the Company and Converſation of the politeſt Artiſts about the Metropolis of the Kingdom, by whoſe Inſtructions he became a proficient in their myſterious Art.

Now he began to ſet up for himſelf, and Fortune ſeem'd to favour his Deſigns; for he providentially happen'd at an Alehouſe into the Company of a Countryman juſt come to Town, that had more Money than Brains, and who, it ſeems, had ſold his Patrimony, to purchaſe an Employment under the Government. To this Man he propoſed a Game at Cards for a Pint of Drink to paſs away the time, and to divert themſelves for an Hour or two. His Propoſal was readily aſſented to by the Countryman; ſo they concluded to play a Game at All-Fours for a Pint of Beer.

Don Franciſco, for ſuch was his Chriſtian Name, laid his Bait to catch the Gudgeon: He let him win a Game or two to encourage him and draw him in to bet Money, which ſucceeded according to his Expectation; for, in a ſhort ſpace of Time, by his Art of Legerdemain and his Dexterity, in handling the Cards, he won all the Money and Moveables the poor Countryman had in the World; and having diſcharged the Reckoning, he retir'd to his Lodging, and left poor Clod Plate behind him to mourn his ragged Fortune.

This benefit Ticket, the prelude to his future Succeſs, he employ'd to the beſt Advantage; he furniſhed himſelf with every Commodity

modity that was requiſite for an handſome Appearance; and then frequented the moſt noted Coffee-houſes about the Town; and being a Perſon of a good Aſpect, good Addreſs, and a good Aſſurance withal, he ſoon became intimately acquainted with Gentlemen of Worth and Honour, who generally paid very dear for his Converſation, and the Confidence they repoſed in him, ſo that he ſoon won Money enough to purchaſe an Enſign's Commiſſion in a marching Regiment in *Flanders*, where he continued for a while eſteemed by moſt of the Officers of the Regiment, and might have continued ſo to this Day, had not his unaccountable Avarice run him into thoſe ſcandalous Extreams, which ruin'd both his Character and Reputation in the Army.

Don Franciſco was ſent one Day with a Detachment to receive Subſiſtance for the Regiment. He had a Bill of Exchange given him upon a certain Merchant in *Flanders*, to be diſcounted and converted into ready Specie, which he received, but thought the Gold too valuable a Commodity to be parted with, or returned to the right Owners. He therefore reſolved to betray the Truſt and Confidence that was repoſed in him. To effect which, he tampered with the Soldiers by his Servant's aſſiſtance, between whom it was agreed for a Gratuity, which was punctually paid by *Don Franciſco*, to throw away their Arms, and pretend they were encountered and defeated by a Party Blew, who having rifled them of their Money, Arms and Accoutrements, diſmiſs'd them, as thinking their Number too cumberſome for a ſpeedy Retreat.

The Reality and the Circumſtances of that notable Action being ſpread Abroad, he was aſhamed

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aſhamed to be ſeen any longer in thoſe Quarters: Wherefore he retir'd from the Army, and came for his Native Country, where ſhagreen'd to be ſo unhappily Diſappointed, he lived as if he had no thoughts of living, till he had profuſely ſpent all the Money that he brought over with him.

N. B. This Diſcovery was by Information of his Servant, who was diſguſted at ſome ill Uſage, and, like the ſecond, was determin'd to ruin him: For where Rancour, Spleen and Diſaffection are intermixt with Probability or Verity, the minuteſt Faults are highly aggravated to the diſadvantage of the Perſon that is accuſed. So that whether he was really guilty or not, is the Query that wants ſolution; for if he was innocent, he had a great deal of Injuſtice done him to be charged with a Fact which he had not committed.

But to return from my Digreſſion. After he had profuſely ſpent the Money he brought over with him, he reſolved to go to his Aunt, a Gentlewoman of good repute in the Metropolis of the Northern part of the Kingdom; and accordingly he ſet forward on his Journey thither, where he arrived in a ſhort Time. When he knock'd at the Door, the Servant enquir'd his Buſineſs; who was anſwered, that he wanted to ſpeak with Madam ———, for that he had a Meſſage to deliver to her from a Nephew. Upon which he was admitted into her Preſence. You may imagine the ſurprize his Aunt was in, when by his Diſcourſe ſhe found him to be the very individual Perſon that ſhe ſuppos'd was abſent in *Flanders*; but recollecting her ſelf, *It is not poſſible*, ſaid ſhe, *that you can be the Perſon you repreſent; for my Nephew is in* Flanders, *in a Station that is not ſuitable to your Garb*;

Garb; therefore I would adviſe you to be gone down Stairs immediately. Is it poſſible, ſaid he, *that my Abſence could alter me ſo much that you ſhould forget me: I aſſure you, I am no Impoſtor, but the ſame* Franciſco *that you were pleas'd to acknowledge formerly to be your Nephew, who thro' Caſualties and Misfortunes is now contemptible in the World. Be gone, I ſay,* ſaid ſhe, *for allowing I really knew you to be the true* Franciſco, *I would diſcard you; for I do not love to encourage ſuch Spendthrifts who profuſely ſquander their Fortunes.* And as ſhe was deaf to his Intreaties, and turn'd from him to avoid his Importunity, he eſpied a large Silver Tankard, which he ſurreptitiouſly took; and then precipitately run down. This he converted into ready Specie at a Goldſmiths, part of which he laid out for Neceſſaries, and the Remainder he employed in carrying on his old beneficial Trade of Gaming, which having fortunately improved, he began a ſecond time to be conſpicuous, and, with the Money which he had won, he purchaſed himſelf a Commiſſion in the Horſe-Guards, which, on a late Confederacy and ſtrict Union, was ordered up to Court to do Duty, and guard the Perſon of their Soverſign. Upon their March they happened to halt at *Ail——ry*, in the Weſt, to refreſh them after their tedious March, and to wait for Orders from Court, till Matters were ready for their Reception.

Don Franciſco was quartered at the Sign of the *White Hart*, where it happened that there was, as Cook of that Inn, a luſty, buxom, freſh Country Girl, whoſe Chaſtity at firſt Sight he reſolved to attempt, and which he effected in a little Time, and not only got her with Child, but tipp'd her a Favour which was not eaſily removed, without nauſeous Draughts, thin

Diet,

Diet, and likewiſe a regular Courſe of Phyſick.

Ambitious to riſe, he diſpoſes of his Poſt in the Horſe, and purchaſes a Company in the Foot Guards, which coſt him a conſiderable Sum of Money. Here he begun to live in good Repute, but follow'd his old Art and Myſtery, unſuſpected of any Frauds committed, becauſe of the Dignity of his Station; by which, and the Benefit ariſing from the Faggots in his Company, he had purchaſed a conſiderable real and perſonal Eſtate, ſet up an handſome Equipage, buys him a rich Chariot, and appear'd in all publick Places attended by a competent Number of Servants in decent Liveries. He was regular in his Payments to his Tradeſmen, which added to his Reputation, being taken for a Man of a conſiderable Fortune. Thus he had an Opportunity of being generally acquainted with Men of Quality, and Perſons of Intereſt at Court.

He improv'd his Acquaintance to the beſt Advantage, for whenever he Gam'd amongſt Eſtated Men, he was ſure in the Sequel to be a conſiderable Gainer.

Thus he continued for ſome Years in an uninterrupted Series of Succeſs, whereby he amaſs'd much Wealth.

But here Fortune began to frown upon him by reaſon of an Information that was lodged againſt him to the Grand Senate, for defrauding the Government of ſeveral Sums of Money, under the Pretence of having an entire and complete Company in full Pay, when in reality he had not half the Number; and tho' the Complainant was a Perſon of an infamous Character, having cheated the Inhabitants of *Ireland*, *France*, *Spain*, *Germany*, and the *Low*

Countries; yet his Reaſons and his Cauſe of Complaint were ſo weighty that they gain'd the Attention of a wiſe legiſlative Power.

The Name of the Informer was *H——ley*, who hir'd a large Houſe, and agreed with ſeveral different Tradeſmen to furniſh it, who, according to contract ſent in the Goods into the Houſe, not ſuſpecting the Fraud, becauſe he was, when he gave them their Inſtructions, attended by three or four Men in hir'd or borrow'd Liveries. As ſoon as he found his Houſe was completely furniſh'd, he thought it high time to make the beſt of them, by improving the Opportunity; he therefore immediately ſent for a Broker, and ſold him the whole Furniture of his Houſe, and abſconded. As ſoon as he was inform'd that the Tradeſmen were upon the Scent after him, he made his Application to *Don Franciſco* to protect him againſt his Creditors, he being qualified at that time by vertue of his Employment to protect any Perſon that was of a ſufficient Height, or had an Inclination to ſerve the Government.

He was firſt introduc'd to *Don Franciſco* by the Serjeant of the Company, to whom he firſt addreſs'd himſelf; and upon paying down ten Guineas, and giving a penal Bond for 20 more, he was regularly liſted as a Soldier, and as ſuch was ſecur'd againſt the Malice and Rage of his Adverſaries. But the Time that was limited by the Bond being expir'd, *Don Franciſco* ſends to demand the Money, which was peremptorily refus'd by the Soldier, who was well aſſur'd that he had run the Colonel to ſuch a Dilemma, that he durſt neither diſcharge, puniſh, or deliver him into the Power of his Creditors.

But in this he was miſtaken, for upon his Refuſal to pay the Money, *Don Franciſco* orders

him

him to do his Duty, which he could not reliſh, and therefore abſconded; upon which *Don Franciſco*, his Colonel, reported him as a Deſerter, and publiſh'd by an Advertiſement in one of the News Papers a Reward of 20 Guineas to any Perſon that ſhould apprehend him, ſo that he might be brought to Juſtice, and ſwore bitterly that he would try him as a Deſerter by a General Court Martial, and have him executed, if poſſible, as a Preſident for the future to all thoſe that ſhall preſume to diſobey his Orders, or refuſe to comply with his Commands.

H——y being appriz'd of his Deſigns, procur'd one of the Serjeants of the Company (who was diſguſted upon ſome ill Treatment) to be of his Party and Intereſt. In this he follow'd the Examples of great Men, who always deem'd it the moſt eſſential Part to skreen themſelves from Juſtice. Thus he acted by Imitation, believing it the ſafeſt Way to ſecure himſelf againſt the Rage, the Malice, and the deſperate Deſigns of his powerful Adverſary.

Having perus'd the Advertiſements in the ſeveral News Papers, and the Reward offered for apprehending him, he conceiv'd there was no way to evade the fatal Purpoſes of the Colonel, but by applying himſelf to the Honourable Houſe of Commons, and lodging an Information againſt him for defrauding the Government of near 500 *l. per annum*: Accordingly he prepar'd a Petition, and apply'd himſelf to ſome Members of that Honourable Houſe, who had at Heart the Welfare and Happineſs of their Native Country. They introduc'd the Petition, and back'd it in the Houſe; where, upon its being read, it was reſolv'd *Nemine Contradicente*, that *H*—y ſhould have the ſanc-

tion of the Houſe, and be protected againſt his Colonel's pretended Proſecution; that a Select Committee ſhould be appointed to make a ſtrict Enquiry into the Merits of the Petition, who had Power to examine Witneſſes, and to ſend for Paper, Muſter-Rolls, and other publick Records and Regiſters. *H—ley* was ordered to draw up his Information in Form againſt his Colonel, and had Clerks, Pen, Ink, and Paper aſſign'd him at the Expence of the Houſe.

He conſtantly employ'd four Clerks for one and twenty Days to copy Muſter-Rolls, and to mark the Duty-men on the Margin with a particular Mark, to diſtinguiſh them from the Faggots and Refugees, which in Reality ought to be deem'd no other than non-effective Men. The Information being perfected by the Aſſiſtance of a diſguſted Serjeant of the Company; it appear'd on a full Hearing to the Committee, that the Colonel had fraudulently and illegally drawn upon the Government, under falſe Colours and Pretences, for ſeveral Sums of Money for the Payment of a complete Company, when in reality he had not above a third Part of the Number in actual Pay (a Contagion that has ſince by Example dilated itſelf not only amongſt the Colonels of the Guards, but even amongſt the Officers of the Marching Regiments in Garriſon) which being reported to the whole Houſe, a Motion being made, and the Queſtion being put, it was reſolv'd by a great Majority, that *Don Franciſco* had been guilty of High Crimes and Miſdemeanors, and a notorious Breach of Truſt, and therefore voted him incapable of any further Service, to be diſmiſs'd without having the Liberty to diſpoſe of his Commiſſion.

Thus fell this great Officer, and at once diſpoſſeis'd both of an honourable and profitable Employment, for his petty and mercenary Actions.

Being thus turn'd out of his Employ by a ſupreme Juriſdiction on an impartial Enquiry, he had recourſe to his former notable Art in the Science and Myſtery of Gaming, by which he acquir'd a far better Eſtate than he could have got by his Military Employ; for tho' by a moderate Computation he had at leaſt 10 *l. per* Week by the Company, beſides the neceſſary Allowance from the Crown for his Support, which amounted to 16 *s.* and 3 *d. per diem*, as Captain of a Company (tho' by his Commiſſion he bore the Title of Lieutenant Colonel, that Dignity being allow'd the Commanding Officer of each Company) yet he often gain'd more in one Night's Adventure than his Pay and Perquiſites amounted to in ſome Years; ſo that he built his Fortune on the Ruins of many a conſiderable Family in his Majeſty's Dominions.

He now began to indulge his ſenſual Appetites, in which his Luxury and Luſt had the preheminence, He generally frequented the moſt noted Houſes of Pleaſure about the Town, where he was very laviſh in his Amours: But, on a mature Deliberation, he reſolv'd to retrench his Expences; in order to which, he lays aſide all Thoughts of viſiting Mother *N— ham*, *Syl—ſter*, and the reſt of their Profeſſion. Yet as he could not well carry on his deſign'd Intrigues without their Aſſiſtance, he employ'd them at a far cheaper Rate, a more moderate Price, and, as he conceived, in a more ſalutary Way: For whereas he run the riſque of a warm Reception in his mighty Re-

vels and his female Engagements with the common Proſtitutes of the Town, where he often got more in a Night than he could ſhake off in a Month; he thought of an Expedient to prevent the neceſſary Inconveniencies and the wretched Concomitants of ſuch a profligate Courſe of Life.

To accompliſh this his Reſolution, he agreed with ſome noted Procurers to furniſh him from Time to Time with variety of freſh Country Girls, which were to be hir'd (to prevent any Suſpicion) to live with him as Servants. And Articles were interchangeably executed by the Parties concerned; the Tenure of which (if Tradition be true) are as follows:

Imprimis, That Colonel *Don Franciſco* ſhall pay, or cauſe to be paid to Mrs. ———, for her Care, Diligence and Expences in waiting and attending the Waggons, to hire freſh Country Girls to ſerve him, for each the Sum of Five Pounds.

Item, That if the Parties hir'd be real Maids, and are brought to comply by the Perſwaſion and Inſtigation of the ſaid Mrs. ———, with his Deſires, at a moderate and reaſonable Price, the ſaid Colonel ſhall pay, or cauſe to be paid unto Mrs. ———, an additional Sum of Ten Guineas for each and every Perſon that ſhall be ſeduced by her Aſſiſtance and Procurement, who is at all Times to have free egreſs and regreſs to his Houſe, in order to prepare and tutor the Girls, to make them tractable and ready to comply with his Requeſt.

Item, That all Contracts between Mrs. ——— and the hir'd Servants, ſhall be punctually made good by the Colonel, without any Equivocation or any Deduction, on any Pretence whatſoever.

Item,

Item, That if the ſaid Mrs. ——— ſhall knowingly or willingly impoſe on the ſaid Colonel, by procuring Caſt-off Madams, or Perſons that have been Plyers at reputed Houſes of Call, or in preſent Keeping, ſhe ſhall for every ſuch Offence not only incur his Diſpleaſure, be diſcarded and render'd incapable of any further Service, but ſhall likewiſe forfeit the Sum of Ten Pounds, to be recovered by Law; wherein no *Eſſoin* or more than one *Imparlance* ſhall be allowed.

Upon theſe Articles being ſign'd and executed, the ſaid Mother ——— ſet her Engines to work; and having employed her Emiſſaries to watch the Waggons as they came to Town, ſhe was informed there was a freſh Cargo juſt arrived at the *Swan* near *Holborn-Bridge*, whither ſhe immediately repaired, and fortunately hir'd a young freſh Country Laſs to ſerve him as a Chamber-Maid for 5 *l. per Annum.*

The Girl, on the Proſpect of having had the good Fortune to be hir'd juſt at her Arrival, was mightily overjoy'd, and return'd the Gentlewoman (as ſhe ſuppoſed) her unfeigned Thanks for her good Intentions to ſerve her; and promiſed punctually to follow her Direction, and to be ſubſervient to her Commands; to be diligent in her Service, and obedient to her Maſter in all Reſpects: So they took Coach, and were drove to the Colonel's Houſe, who happened to be Abroad at a Tavern with ſome Company; but his Servant, at their arrival, being diſpatched for him, went directly to the Tavern, and acquainting him with his Errand, the Colonel, as if tranſported, left his Company, and was drove directly home.

He

He was agreeably ſurprized when he ſaw her. Youth and Beauty had gain'd the Aſcendant over him, ſo that he ſeem'd very impatient till he had enjoy'd her. 'Tis impoſſible to expreſs the Extaſy he was in. He thank'd his Confident for her Diligence; he made her a Preſent of ten Pieces, and promiſed to be indefatigable at her Devoir. The Girl was pleaſed at the fine Appearance and glittering Furniture of her Maſter's Houſe. He ask'd her (as is neceſſary and cuſtomary on ſuch Occaſions) ſeveral Queſtions concerning her Character and her Abilities, what Perſons ſhe had lived with, and how long ſhe had been in Town. All which ſhe anſwered with a courteous Behaviour and modeſt Demeanour. Upon which ſhe was hir'd, and had half a Guinea in Earneſt, which he promiſed ſhould not be deducted out of her Wages; for that he gave it *gratis* to encourage her; and withal aſſured her, that if ſhe would prove a good Girl, and mind her Buſineſs, he would raiſe her Wages according to her Merit. The Wench ſeem pleaſed at the Proſpect of her approaching Happineſs, but little thought that his Deſign was to ruin and debauch her; and that the Gold was given as a Bait to catch a Gudgeon.

Mother ——, after drinking a Glaſs of good *Burgundy* with the Colonel, took her leave, and turning to the Woman: *You ſee*, ſaid ſhe, *I have provided you a good Service, where, if you mind your bits, you may make your Fortune. Your Maſter is a fine perſonable Gentleman, of a conſiderable Family, Quality and Intereſt: You cannot tell what he may do for you, provided you be a good Girl, and follow my Inſtructions. I'll call To-morrow or next Day to ſee how you behave yourſelf; and if I hear any Complaints, look to it.*

I'll

I'll never take any Notice of you, nor will I ever provide you another Service. The Maid promiſed her to be as tractable, as diligent and as obedient as ſhe could deſire; ſo they parted.

The next Morning ſhe was call'd up to receive her Inſtructions. Her Maſter viewed her all over; he felt her Breaſts; he praiſed her Features, her black Eyes, her ruby Lips, her ruddy Complexion; and told her, *It was a pity ſo comely a young Woman ſhould undertake the Drudgery of his Houſe; that Fortune had deſigned her for ſomething above the ſervile State ſhe was in; for that he had reſolved, from the firſt Moment he had ſeen her (as ſoon as he could be provided with one to his Mind to ſupply her Place) to make her his Houſekeeper.* In obedience to the *Duenna's* Commands, ſhe ſuffered him to handle her with a ſeeming Reluctancy; nor is it to be doubted but that ſhe (being ignorant as to his Deſigns) was very well pleas'd with his Diſcourſe.

Mother ——, according to her Promiſe, came in a Day or two to enquire (as ſhe pretended) whether ſhe behaved as ſhe ought; and whether ſhe was well us'd? She added, *Her Maſter was a dear good-natur'd Gentleman, and would moſt certainly make a Woman of her*; which was verified when ſhe proved with Child. She asked her further, *Whether he was not waggiſhly inclined, and did not offer to feel her Bubbies?* To all which Interrogatories the Girl anſwered in the affirmative. *O! then,* ſaid ſhe, *I find he has taken a liking to you.* If you humour him, you may make your Place worth Fifty Pounds each Year, for he is very generous where he takes; therefore mind your Buſineſs and my Inſtructions; for Opportunity once loſt is bald behind; and leave the reſt to

me. I do not doubt but that you will ride in your Chariot before you Dye. She wrought ſo far by her deluding Tongue on the poor ſilly Country Wench, that ſhe prepared her for the guilty Scene and her own wicked Purpoſes; for in a ſmall Space of Time her Maſter had ſatisfied his luſtful and leacherous Inclinations; for which Mother ——— received the ſtipulated Gratuity.

In Proceſs of Time ſhe felt the fatal Effects of gratifying his amorous Deſires. She grew ſqueamiſh, puk'd in a Morning, and was ſick by Intervals. She was not a little ſurprized at this ſudden alteration in her Conſtitution, yet was ſhe ignorant of the Cauſe till her Belly began to ſwell, and ſhe was inform'd by ſome of her Sex, (that were skill'd in ſuch Affairs) that ſhe was with Child; which was verified at the End of nine Months, when ſhe was ſafely delivered of a Male Infant, who was privately baptized, and ſent to Nurſe into the Country.

Mother ——— could not forbear informing one of her Correſpondents of the Matter, how ſhe negotiated, and how ſhe ſucceeded; who was reſolved to ſupplant her, make a Property of her Cull, and come in for a Dividend. To effect which, ſhe procured an arch young Buxom Whore, whom ſhe inſtructed in the Art and Myſtery of palming a Maidenhead on him, and ſent her to *Colebrook*, to wait the coming of the Weſt Country Waggons. In the mean time ſhe fram'd a Letter from one Mr. *Carter* at *Salisbury*, which (to avoid Suſpicion) was to be put into the Poſt by this pretended Daughter, directed to her, to inform her the Girl was deſirous of coming to *London*; that by the time ſhe ſhould receive her Letter ſhe would be on the Road, and begg'd ſhe would provide her

her a good Service againſt her coming to Town. Furniſhed with this neceſſary Voucher, a grave ſelect Matron, a clever Tongue Pad, was pitch'd upon to wait on the Colonel, which ſhe accordingly did, and manag'd her Cards ſo well, that what ſhe offered was accepted; and ſhe agreed with him for twenty Guineas to procure him this chaſt and unſpotted Virgin.

When ſhe came to Town ſhe was introduced to the Colonel, who lik'd her extreamly well, and, without any heſitation, hir'd her as a Servant. She had not been with him above two or three Days, before he attempted her Virtue by fine Speeches and large Promiſes; which the cunning Gipſy reſiſted with all the ſeeming Sanctity imaginable; and ſeem'd to perſevere in her Reſolution. She, like a Broker that has Money bid for his Goods, ſtands at Bay a while, but is loth to let the Chap go off: So ſhe was unwilling to condeſcend on a ſpurt, for fear he ſhould ſuſpect her Chaſtity, tho' ſhe had an itching palm to finger the Premium. At laſt, thro' a great deal of Perſwaſion, (tho', with ſome viſible reluctancy) he prevail'd on her to let him taſte the forbidden Fruit, with this Proviſo, that he ſhould give her Money (as a prelude to his future Favours) to buy her a new Suit of Cloaths, which he readily comply'd with, and accordingly gave her ten Guineas; upon the receipt of which ſhe agreed to go to Bed and lay with him that whole Night. In the Morning ſhe got up, and pretended to go to a *Mercer's* Shop to buy the Materials, but never returned, being apprehenſive ſhe had tip'd him a favour that, upon Diſcovery, would not be very acceptable; and therefore wiſely reſolved to provide for her Security by an

Elopement, to evade the Puniſhment which ſhe juſtly deſerved from him only.

We may imagine our Enamerado with Impatience waited her Return, being highly ſatisfied with his laſt Night's Entertainment. He did not ſuſpect ſhe had given him a ſecret Wound that could not be cur'd without the Aſſiſtance of an able Chirurgeon, or an eminent Phyſician. It might have been expected, that a Man of his Abilities, his reiterated and frequent Converſation with the Female Sex, and his Judgment in the Purſuit of his unlawful Pleaſures, could not have been ſo groſly impos'd on. Hence it is evident there may be in Nature a Deception of the ſenſitive Faculties, and that the ſtaunchest Hounds may be foil'd in the Soil; for in two or three Days ſpace he diſcovered the dire Effects of his Virgin Fruition, and for a momentary ſlippery Pleaſure, underwent the Torment and Drudgery of Specificks, Antivenereal and *Italian* Bolus's, and the wretched Ingredients of Mercurial Medicines.

His Conſtitution being weaken'd, and his Stomach pall'd with repeated Doſes of Pills and bitter Draughts, he reſolv'd to take a Trip to the *Bath* for the Benefit of the Mineral Waters, and to retrieve the Loſs and Charges he was at in Town. On his way thither, he happen'd into the Company of a Sharper, whoſe Dexterity and Slight of Hand was ſuperiour to his Skill. They both appearing like Gentlemen (and there being no other Company in the Houſe fit for their Converſation, and ſuitable to their Quality) they reſolv'd to ſup together. After they had eaten plentifully, and the Table was clear'd, the Colonel propoſed a Game at Cards to divert and paſs away the Time, which

was

was readily conſented to by the other. The Cards were call'd for and brought up, then they fell to game at Picquet, when the Colonel not ſuſpecting the other's Ability, was not as reſerv'd as he ought to be, was ſoon ſtript of all the ready Money, Bank Bills, Diamond Ring, Gold Watch, Sword and Snuff-Box, which amounted to a conſiderable Sum. His Adverſary was ſo generous the next Morning as to return him his Sword, and defray the Charges of the Houſe; then they breakfaſted and parted, the one taking his Rout for *London*, and the other purſuing his Journey for the *Bath*.

Ruminating on his late Diſaſter he grew penſive and melancholy; he had not gone above a quarter part of the Way before he was ſtript of all his Money except one Guinea. He could not propoſe to go further, becauſe he had not wherewithal to defray the neceſſary Expences of his Journey. At laſt he conſidered of an Expedient to raiſe a Fund to ſupply his preſent immergent Neceſſity. The Scheme which he propos'd ſeem'd both plauſible and probable, which, (like a wiſe and politick Stateſmen) he reſolved to put in Execution. His Spirits being ſomewhat revived with the thoughts of this freſh and ſpeedy Supply, he laid aſide his melancholy Reflections; He aſſumes a gay and lively Air, and trudges along, reſolving to take up his Quarters at the beſt Inn in the next Town, being ſatisfy'd his perſonal Appearance and Equipage would prevent all Suſpicion of a fraud or any clandeſtine Practices.

I hope my Readers will excuſe my not mentioning the Town, the Inn, and the Name of the Landlord where this Scene was acted; for Reaſons of State obliges me to be ſilent: Let

this

this ſuffice, that he ſet up his Horſes at a certain Inn, and gave Orders that extraordinary Care ſhould be taken of them, which was punctually obeyed the *Major Domo*, who expected a Benefit Ticket from his new Gueſt, this honourable Stranger, as he ſuppoſed.

So diligent was he in the Care of his Horſes, that he muſt needs attend himſelf to ſee them rubb'd down, fed and litter'd; intimating the Beauty and Perfections of the Beaſts, which were, *he ſaid*, the principal Motives to his curious Inſpection. Then he deſired the Maſter of the Inn to ſhew him the beſt Room in the Houſe, ordering a Bottle of *French* Claret as a whet to refreſh him after the Toil and Fatigues of that Day's tedious Journey, and withal a coſtly and ſumptuous Supper to be provided at a limited Hour. As there was no Traveller of any Note, Station or Fortune, at that Time in the Houſe, he requeſted of the Landlord to bear him Company and to divert him, becauſe, he ſaid, 'twas irkſome to a Man of Quality to ſit Moping by himſelf.

The honeſt good-natur'd Man was not a little pleas'd at his Invitation, but did not ſuſpect that, *ſub eſca lethalis abſconditur hamus*, under the Colour of this ſeeming Courteſy he deſign'd to chouſe him, and make him dearly pay for his familiarity and his ruſtical Converſation; and that this was laid as a Bait to trapan him; however, they drank plentifully and ſupp'd heartily. After the Table was clear'd, the Bottles and Glaſſes were laid on, and Healths went merrily about. Sometimes they diſcours'd of Politicks, ſometimes on Elections, on Husbandry and the Felicities of a Rural Life. Colonel *Franciſco*'s Language was lofty and elegant, to demonſtrate he was a Man of Letters as well

as Fortune, a ſound Judgment and polite Underſtanding, and he was generous and liberal, to ſhew that he had a capacious Soul, that valued not his Money while he had Company to divert him, or Liquor to gratify his Appetite.

Thus they ſpent the Time till it grew late; when the honeſt Man believing that, by his Preſence, the complaiſant Gentleman was detain'd from his natural Reſt, thus addreſs'd him: *Worthy Sir! I am afraid I intrude too much upon your good Nature, and therefore beg leave to retire.* Upon which the generous Colonel reply'd, *No, no, Landlord, I aſſure you you do not detain me, my Hour is not come yet, we will drink the other Bottle, and then——*

When the Bottle was brought up, he drank to the beſt in Chriſtendom; and ſaid, *Come, Sir, ſit you down a while (if your Preſence be not abſolutely neceſſary below) and pledge this Health.* *With all my Heart*, reply'd the Hoſt, being a little elevated, *I like it very well; and, if your Honour will be pleas'd to give me leave, I'll drink to my Wife* Sarah's, *for I take it to be the beſt.* *That is*, ſaid the Colonel, *becauſe you have not tried Variety, and know no Difference.* *Truly, Sir*, ſays the other, *you judge aright, for we home ſpun Men are not bleſt with that Affluence of Wealth that you Men of Quality enjoy; we are obliged to ſuch Gentlemen as you for our Livelihood; we are forc'd to work and earn our Bread by the ſweat of our Brows before we can eat it; we are content if we can but get a moderate living, and pay every Body their own; ſo that we cannot bear thoſe ſuperfluous Expences to gratify our Inclinations: Beſides, there are ſeveral Inconveniences in the Country that attend thoſe unlawful Pleaſures. We cannot converſe here with a Woman without*

without running the Risque of being discovered; nor can we avoid the Expence and publick Reproach of those Parish Cormorants, Magistrates, Church-wardens and Overseers, who feed their ungodly Guts, and riot in their Feasts and nightly Revels upon the accidental Income of illegitimate Children; we have not the Opportunity of transporting big Bellies into strange Climates, where they dishonorate themselves, put out the Child to nurse, and then return in as good Repute as ever; so that we are forc'd to be honest, and be content with our Station, not lusting after strange Faces, but live in the mutual Embraces of Conjugal Fidelity.

I confess, says the Colonel, *there is some Verity and Energy in your Arguments, which must of consequence anticipate your Pleasures; as for my part, I admire how you can confine yourself to the eternal Drudgery of a Marriage Bed, while there is such Delicacy in Variety.*

This was the Substance of their Discourse till the time drew near when he was to execute his Designs: *Bless me,* says he, with a seeming Sanctity and Surprize, *I should have writ to London this Night, for I cannot tell how my Time may be employ'd, or what Company I may happen into to-morrow, which may divert my Thoughts, and employ my vacant Hours; therefore pray let me have Paper, Pen and Ink, and half a Dozen Faggots; likewise let me have the other Bottle, that we may take a chirping Glass together; for, as the Latinist says,* Vinum acuit Ingenium, *Wine sharpens and enlivens Man's Understanding, and makes him fit for all manner of Business.*

The Landlord punctually obeys his Orders, and after a Glass or two, begs leave to retire, which was granted him; so that *Don Francisco* was left to employ his Thoughts how he should manage his Affairs, Necessity being the Mo-

ther

ther of Invention, he ſoon reſolv'd upon Ways and Means to raiſe a Supply: He calls his Servant, and bids him take care of the Horſes and go directly to bed, for that he ſhould not want him that Night, with Orders to awake him in the Morning early.

As the Servant was going down Stairs he ſeemingly locks the Door and puts the Key in his Pocket, which (when the Coaſt was clear) he threw into the Street; then he ſtript himſelf to his Shirt, put on his Night-Gown, and commits his Breeches to the Flames, having firſt rip'd off the Gold Lace that he might be as ſaving as poſſible, and be at no ſuperfluous Expence in proſecuting his Deſigns. While they were conſuming he ſung a doleful Ditty, that he might imitate the infamous *Nero* the *Roman* Emperor, who, after he had ſet fire to the greateſt part of the famous City of *Rome*, retir'd to the *Capitol*, where he had a full Proſpect of his barbarous Rage and Cruelty, and there unconcern'd he ſung a remarkable *Æneid* on the Deſtruction of *Troy*.

After the Fire had conſum'd the Breeches, he takes a Pair of Tongs and turns over every Cinder, to be fully convinc'd there was not one Particle left; then makes a Compound of the whole, and goes to bed.

In the Morning his Man knocks at the Door, crying, *Sir, Sir, will your Honour pleaſe to riſe, it grows late?* His Maſter, in a ſeeming Surprize, as if juſt awak'd from a ſound Sleep, cry'd, *The Key is under the Door.* The Servant, groping for the Key, accidentally run his Head againſt the Door and burſt it open, and enters the Room, ſaying, *Lord, Sir! the Door was not lock'd. No!* ſays the Colonel, *I lock'd it laſt Night, and I'm ſure you could not but hear me.*

I thought ſo, reply'd the other. *Zoons! what can be the meaning that it ſhould be open'd after I was gone to bed? I hope I am in an honeſt Houſe.* Certainly this was done with a Deſign. Then looking under the Bolſter, he miſs'd his Breeches, and cry'd in a great Rage, *I am robb'd, I have loſt my Breeches from under my Head; call the Landlord up, but do not tell him what I want with him.* The Servant went down, and told him his Maſter wanted him. The honeſt Man, not in the leaſt ſuſpecting the Fraud, readily attends. He had no ſooner enter'd the Room, but he was ask'd, what Company he had the laſt Night in his Houſe? He reply'd, he had none but his own Family: *Then*, ſays *Don Franciſco* in a Fury, *you keep a Gang of Thieves and Villains about you, for I am robb'd; I have loſt my Breeches from under my Head; do you uſually treat Gentlemen after this manner?* The Landlord was aſtoniſh'd at the Charge, ſaying, *Have a little Patience, good Sir, perhaps it may be miſ-laid and lye hid among the Bed-Cloaths.* *Miſlaid, with a Vengeance*, ſays the other; *it is laid ſo that I ſhall never ſee them more; but look and ſee that you find them, for by G--d you are like to make good the Damage; I have loſt above ſixty Pounds, my Gold Watch included.* The Hoſt looks, but in vain, for the Flames had ſecur'd them. *I cannot imagine*, ſays he, *how this ſhould happen.* *Happen!* reply'd the Colonel, *you keep a Pack of Rogues about you, and I believe you are confederate with them: Go you, Sir,* (pointing to his Servant) *to a Magiſtrate, give my Service to him, and tell him I deſire his Company.* Upon which the Landlord ſaid, *I am ſorry, Sir, you ſhould harbour ſuch an ill Opinion of me; you need not give yourſelf that unneceſſary Trouble, for I will make good the Damage; I would not have my Re-*

putation

putation ſtain'd for 500 l. *neither would I have the Houſe lye under ſo vile an Imputation, for it would certainly ruin my Credit, and frighten Gueſts from my Houſe.*

Don Franciſco was not a little pleas'd with his Diſcourſe, and reaſſuming his wonted Gaiety, ſaid, *I am ſorry ſuch an Accident has happen'd; but as the Caſe ſtands, we muſt make the beſt of a bad Market; do you advance me ſixty Guineas, and when I receive the Rents and Profits of my Eſtate, I will, upon my Honour, at my Return, conſider your Loſs; but*, added he, *I would have you examine ſtrictly into this Affair when I am gone; I have known by Diligence and Application far greater Villanies than this brought to light.*

The Man ſeem'd pleas'd with this Declaration, and thank'd him for his Indulgence, promiſing to ſend for a Taylor to have a new Pair of Breeches made him; and having made him a Congee, went down and immediately return'd with the Money, which he counted on the Table, and then withdrew.

After the Taylor had taken Meaſure of him, he ſet his Men to work with all the Expedition imaginable, and having finiſh'd them, brought them home; which having fitted on, he paid his Bill, and as an Inſtance that he was well ſatisfied both with the Work and the moderate Charge, call'd for a Bottle of Wine, which they drank; then he call'd for his Reckoning, paid the Bill, mounted his Horſe, and then proceeded on his Journey towards his own Country, where (when arriv'd) he fell to his old Trade, and won an immenſe Sum of Money, part of which he tranſmitted to *London*.

Pardon me that here I make a Digreſſion; my Reaſon for it is, becauſe Matter of Fact intervenes. To enhance our Mirth and gratify the Reader, you are, as an Introduction to this part of his Hiſtory, to underſtand, that the laſt time he was in the Country he committed a Rape, *Vi & Armis*, on the Daughter of a Tinker, in that part of the Kingdom; for which illegal Action he was oblig'd to fly, and durſt not return till he was aſſur'd by his Friends of a Pardon.

In confidence of which, he went thither to take his Tryal; and after he was found guilty, he pleaded his Majeſty's moſt gracious Pardon, which he pull'd out of his Pocket.

Being thus acquitted, he began again to appear in publick, and introduc'd himſelf into the Company and Converſation of the beſt Peers in that part of the Kingdom, not with a Deſign to edify, but to make a Property of them, when Time and Opportunity ſerv'd.

It happen'd one Night that he went to one Mr. *Sc--ts*, a Gaming-houſe in *Edinborough*, where ſeveral Perſons of Quality were at Seven or Eleven, and our noble *Don Franciſco* made one of the Number. Theſe noble Peers watched all his Motions, and, being curious in their Inſpection, perceived the palming falſe Dice upon them. Upon which they drew their Swords, and obliged him to refund the Money he had illegally and clandeſtinely won. Not being content with the Reimburſement, they compelled him to ſtrip off his Cloaths; and, as an aggravation of his Guilt, to ſtand naked the whole Night, without Shirt, Shoes, or any thing to cover his Nakedneſs. This was a great Mortification to a Man of Honour, that had not Spirit or Courage enough to reſent the

Affront

Affront and Injury he received from thoſe Noblemen, who, no doubt (if required) would have put themſelves upon a level with him. But,

Tutius eſt igitur fictis contendere verbis
Quam pugnare Manu.

he thought it ſafer by Tears, Prayers and Supplications, to ſolicit for a Pardon, beg Forgiveneſs, and pray for a *Noli Proſequi*, than to exert himſelf.

However, all his Intreaties could not avail, or move his exaſperated and inexorable Enemy to pardon his Tranſgreſſions; ſo he was forced to ſtand and patiently abide the Determination of their Will and Pleaſure, till the cold Weather pinch'd him, ſo that he could no longer endure the ſharpneſs and ſeverity of the Night; therefore, like a muckle Man of Might, he exclaims againſt their Cruelty, and in a melancholy and doleful Tone cries, By your leave, Gentlemen, ſince you have not Humanity enough to ſet me free I muſt endeavour for my Liberty, maugre your Proweſs and Superiority in Number; for as

Furor arma Miniſtrat,

he turns up him Bum, and conceiving this the moſt expeditious and ſalutary Way to repulſe the Enemy, and oblige them to retire, he lets fly a whole Magazine of T——d directly towards them, which forced them precipitately to retreat, and leave the Field of Battle to be poſſeſs'd by the couragious and victorious *Martinite*.

Dolus,

Dolus, an Virtus, quis in hoſte requirit.

I confeſs, if we rightly conſider his Caſe, no Body can juſtly blame his Policy, and the Stratagem he made uſe of to put the Enemy into Confuſion, and leave him to reap the Fruits of his notable Victory; for while they were compelled by the Stench to quit the Room, he had leiſure to put on his Cloaths, and walk down Stairs in ſafety, highly ſatisfied with the Succeſs of his Enterprize.

Yet for all this he could not leave his Moroding upon the Publick; for, as the Proverb ſays,

Quo ſemel eſt imbuta recens, ſervabit odorem
Teſta diu ———

What is bred in the Bone will never be out of the Fleſh. Actions that are once become habitual can hardly be forgot, without the utmoſt Diligence and Application; but where Mankind is not intentionally and poſitively bent to ſuppreſs thoſe inordinate Faculties, they grow upon our depraved Nature, prey upon our moſt regular Thoughts, and, maugre our firmeſt Reſolutions, are ſo eradicated, that nothing but Death can obviate thoſe pernicious Practices.

We may boaſt indeed, that our Wealth and Stations are an Umbrage to our vicious Inclinations: But ſhall we admire a Horſe for his Traplings, or Mankind for his gilded Outſide? No, 'tis the intrinſick Beauty of the Mind that deſervedly recommends a Man.

At genus & proavos & quæ non fecimus ipſi
Vix ea noſtra voco.

By

By this Stratagem he procured his Liberty, and, we may reaſonably ſuppoſe, that he was not well pleas'd at the Adventure; however, his Fame ſpread Abroad, and every Perſon began to Point at him as he paſſed along the Streets; ſo that he was aſhamed to ſtay any longer in the Borough of *Eden*, in the Northern Parts of *Brettany*.

It has always been a Political Maxim among Sharpers, when their Actions are diſcovered, to ſhift their Stations, that they may carry on the Bubble with greater Security where they are not known, and gull the Nation where-ever they come; they are Vultures that prey upon the Eſtates of Mankind; and unhappy is that Family that accidentally falls under their Clutches.

This was the principal Cauſe that made him reſolve to return to the Metropolitan, where he has ſince reſided, not without Infamy and Reproach, being frequently guilty of ſuch Actions that have laid him open to the Cenſure of the Law. One would have thought that when he had acquired ſuch a plentiful Fortune he might have reſolved to turn honeſt, and live up to the Rules and Principles of Morality. But Avarice is never ſatisfied; it is an incurable Diſeaſe, and a corroding Ulcer, that no Art, no Application, can cure or eradicate. For theſe Men ſacrifice their Virtue, their Fame, Honour and Reputation, and every Thing that is valuable to Mankind, that are of innate and neceſſary Principles.

Having received his Rents, and the Intereſt of his Money which he had lodged in the Northern Part of the Country, and gained conſiderably by his Art and Legerdemain, he proceeds on his intended Journey to Town; but as Men

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of his Profeſſion generally take ſhort Routs, and ſlow Marches, and like true-born Huntſmen, beat every Buſh in queſt of their Game, he ſeldom rid above fifteen or twenty Miles each Day.

But to return to my Digreſſion. Fortune ſtill continued her Friendſhip towards him, which he had improved to his Advantage, ſo that he found himſelf in a Condition to repay his honeſt Landlord the Money that he had obliged him to advance; he therefore, out of a Principle of Honeſty, reſolved to pay him a ſecond Viſit, and accordingly came to his Houſe, who was ſurpriz'd on every Part of him: He had an Averſion to the Man, yet he knew not the Reaſon; for hitherto he had not ſuſpected the Fraud, nor his Device to trick him out of ſo much Money.

After he had ſeen his Horſes ſet up he was ſhewed to the ſame Room where he burnt his Breeches: When he enter'd, he ordered the Chamberlain to call up his Maſter, who (when he came up) was deſired to ſit down, which he accordingly did, and after drinking a Glaſs or two of Wine, *Don Franciſco* ſaid, Well, Sir, have you heard any Thing about my Breeches, and my Money? No, really, reply'd the Landlord, I have not, tho' I have made all the Diligent Enquiry imaginable heitherto. I am ſorry to hear it, ſays Colonel *Franciſco*, but ſince Accidents cannot be prevented, we muſt make the beſt of them; you may remember I told you at parting I would, at my Return, conſider you; you did ſo, reply'd the Landlord; I am come then to fulfil my Engagements, and withal putting his Hand in his Pocket pulls out a large Purſe of Gold, and tenders him down the Money: I thank you, honourable Sir, ſays the Landlord,

Landlord, I never doubted your Honour's Goodneſs and Generoſity; but whilſt he was talking took care to ſecure the Money, for fear he ſhould retract his Promiſe; then made his Obeyſance and withdrew: When he got down Stairs he flew to his Wife in an Extaſy; Wife, Wife, *ſays he*, is not this an honourable Gentleman; he has paid me every Penny of the Money that I gave him at parting; I warrant you he is a Man of Quality. Egad Husband, ſays the Wife, this is a lucky Hit, 'tis what we never expected; pray take care that my Lord be well attended; he muſt be a generous honourable Man that will freely part with ſo much Money now a Days.

Every thing was prepared for his Entertainment with the utmoſt Gratitude and Humility; and the Landlord officiouſly attended on him, which gave ſome Diſguſt, becauſe the Waiters expected great Matters from ſo honourable and generous a Gentleman. It could not enter into their Thoughts that a Man of his Carriage and Behaviour, his Affability and Generoſity, would offer to impoſe ſo groſly on a Houſe as to pretend he was robb'd, if it had not been Fact; and what confirm'd them in their Opinion was the loſs of the Breeches; ſo that Somebody in the Houſe (tho' not diſcovered) muſt have done the Fact.

But how were they ſtruck with Horror and Confuſion, when their Maſter inform'd them, when he was gone off, the whole Circumſtances of the Affair, and how it was tranſacted? for he inadvertently whiſper'd the Man of the Houſe in the Ear, and gave him a genuine Account of his Management.

This was an Action that did not prove him to be a Perſon of the niceſt Capacity, other-

wiſe he would for Shame have concealed that Deed, that muſt of Neceſſity have laid him open to the Cenſure of the World; for, had he not been an Evidence againſt himſelf, who could have condemned him? But his Conſcience flew in his Face, ſo that he could not forbear diſcovering an Inſtance of his Immorality.

The good Wife ſtood with Patience to hear her Husband relate the Story; which, when he had finiſh'd, ſhe cry'd out, *Who could have thought, Husband, that ſo fine a Gentleman, ſo compleat to all Appearance, could have been ſo baſe, ſo villainous, as to impoſe on poor Country People at this Rate? But I warrant you he is ſome Sharper; a Gentleman would ſcorn to have his Name brought in Queſtion upon ſuch a ſcandalous Account. 'Tis well we had the Money ready in the Houſe to ſatisfy him, or elſe, perhaps, he might have charged us (as he threaten'd) with the Robbery.*

Soon after this he arrived in *London*, and frequented the Gaming-houſes there. One Night pretty late he ſtrol'd from *Will*'s Coffee-houſe up to St. *James*'s, where finding there was no probability of making an Advantage becauſe there was no Gaming, he reſolved to go directly home; but unhappily as he went up the Street he met a Draggle-tail ugly dirty Slut, with whom he reſolved to divert himſelf a while, for all was Fiſh that came into his Net, and accordingly takes her up into a dark Alley, where he began to dally with her. The cunning Gipſy patiently bore his rude Aſſaults upon her Body, being intent of making a Property of his Purſe; for whilſt he was fingering of her, ſhe was buſy in fingering his Pockets, where ſhe fortunately found ſix Gui-

neas,

neas, which ſhe privately convey'd; and then pretending Somebody was coming, ſlipp'd from him, and made off with the Booty. After he had button'd up his Breeches, he ſearch'd his Pockets, and finding he was robb'd, runs after her, crying out with a laudable Voice, *Stop Thief!* A Watchman hearing the Cry, purſued and overtook the Woman, and ſtopp'd her. Upon which ſhe had the Preſence of Mind to ſay, *For God's ſake let me alone: 'Tis only Colonel* Don Franciſco *that would be rude with me; and becauſe I would not agree to his filthy luſtful Humours, ſwore he would ſend me to* Bridewell. Upon which the Watchman reply'd, *D-mn him, Is it he? Go about your Buſineſs; I wiſh you had ſtrip'd his Soul.* So ſhe gave him a Crown, and they made off, to leave our noble Hero to purſue in vain, and waſte his Breath in fruitleſs Acclamations.

There was one Mr. *M- --r* that did not live a Mile from a certain Street that goes by the Name of *Rua Nova de Obligaçon*, commonly called in our Language *New-Bond-Street*, that was very intimate with this Colonel *Franciſco*. It happened one Night that as he was with him at the Tavern, that the Colonel deſired him to go and bring him a Whore, which this Perſon at firſt refuſed, but being importuned by the other he went directly into the Hundreds, where eſpying a good jolly Girl, he picked her up, and brought her to the Room where the Colonel was drinking, and after a Glaſs of Wine, he ſlip'd out of the Room, to give him an Opportunity of enjoying her, which he accordingly did: When Mr. *M- --r* returned, *Franciſco* ſeemed very well pleaſed with his delicious *Tu Quoque*, and having handſomely rewarded the Girl, he diſmiſſed her to go in Queſt of another Adventure.

In three or four Days he began to feel the Effects of his Virility, and found an unuſual Heat in his Urine. Then was he ſenſible that ſhe had tipp'd him a Favour; and ſuppoſing the Perſon had brought her on purpoſe to put a Trick upon him; or, as our *Engliſh* Proverb expreſſes it, give him after *Sweet meat ſour ſauce*, he reſolved to be revenged on the innocent Man, who had too great a regard for him to harbour a Thought prejudicial to his Intereſt. The Man had a Stable that was contiguous to the Colonel's Stables, which *Don Franciſco* pitch'd upon to be the Scene of his Revenge.

It happen'd unluckily, that while Mr. *M*——*r* was abroad on ſome Domeſtick Buſineſs, that his Wife, going from the Stable to her own Apartment, inadvertently left the Door open, which *Franciſco*, or his Agents, eſpying, laid hold on the Opportunity, and privately convey'd thither a Sack of Oats. The Man on his Return home, accidentally paſſing by the Place, ſpy'd the Door open, and upon his entering, and caſting his Eyes about the Stable, he ſaw a Sight which did not a little ſurprize him; he knew he had contracted for no Oats, neither had he order'd any to be brought; and his Wife was as ignorant of the Matter as he: But their Doubts were ſoon clear'd, when Colonel *Franciſco* came with a Warrant and a Conſtable to ſearch for a Sack of Oats, that had been feloniouſly taken, as he pretended, from him: They went directly to the Stable, where they found a Sack of Oats, which the Colonel, or his Agents, ſwore to be his; upon which the unhappy Man was apprehended, and being carried before a proper Magiſtrate, was committed to the County Gaol, call'd, *Nova Porta*, which in

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our *English* Language is *Newgate*. Whether the Colonel was ſtung with a Remorſe of Conſcience; or whether his Honour was afraid of being expos'd in Court, if he had appear'd in ſo baſe an Action, is the Queſtion; but this I am ſure of, there was no Proſecution; ſo he was diſcharged the following Seſſions.

There was a certain Woman that commonly goes by the Nickname of *Frouſy*, that was one Night pick'd up in the Streets by *Franciſco*, and carried to his Houſe: It is remarkable, that this Woman was but one Degree handſomer than the late famous *Granny*, ſo that it ſeems he lov'd Variety. She lay with him all Night, and the next Morning he, out of his unbounded Generoſity, gave her a Guinea. The Woman grew pregnant, and was brought to bed of a fine Boy; but our famous Colonel took no further Notice of her; he neither defray'd the Expences of her Lying-in, neither would he allow her a Subſiſtance for the Child, tho' it carried the Reſemblance of the Father.

I had like to have forgot the Intrigue that *Don Franciſco*, after his Arrival in *London*, carried on with a certain Cook-Maid, not far from the *Piazza's* in *Covent-Garden*. He had been a conſiderable time ſoliciting this Wench to grant him a Favour; ſhe was one of the largeſt Size, and ſuch were they that the Colonel generally fancied. She was not a Maid, but by her coy and demure Behaviour, made him conceive that ſhe was a perfect Virgin; and as that Meat taſtes ſweeteſt and reliſhes beſt that is purchas'd with the greateſt Labour and Difficulty, ſo that Woman which is hardeſt to be wrought upon gives the greateſt Pleaſure and Content. She knew he wanted a Maidenhead, and was reſolv'd, if poſſible, to palm one upon him.

To this Intent she had Recourse to a certain noted Procuress; and having related the whole Affair to her, was instructed what Method was to be taken when she went to him. He was very sollicitous to enjoy her, and promis'd her any valuable Consideration, provided she would condescend to his Humour. At last they came to a fair Capitulation, and she propos'd to surrender upon very advantagious Terms; which being assented to by him, Preliminary Articles were concluded and ratified betwixt them; he paid her down fifty Guineas, and gave her a Note for fifty more, payable to her or her Order, provided he was satisfied she was a real Maid, and had not known Man before. So the Time was fix'd, and the Place was appointed where they were privately to meet, which was at a Bagnio near *Golden Square*, when she faithfully promis'd that she would punctually wait upon him.

Having related the whole Story to the Procuress, and having inform'd her that she was paid before-hand, and shew'd her the *Præmium* she had receiv'd; You silly Fool, said the old Bawd, do not go near him, for you have already made the most of him; if it should happen that he should discover that you are no Maid, he will make you refund the Money, or perhaps use you very ill, for it is a hard matter to foil an experienc'd Huntsman; therefore follow my Advice; go home, pack up your Clothes, quit your Service, and retire to some obscure Quarter of the Town where you are not known; there you may live undiscovered till the Storm is blown over, and then put the Note into some honest Attorney's Hand, that will recover your Money that is due upon the Note. The Cook return'd her Thanks for her Instructions, and

promis'd to follow them; and having made the old Woman a handſome Preſent, retir'd to execute her well-concerted Project.

Colonel *Franciſco* went according to Agreement to the Place appointed, where he waited her coming with a great deal of Impatience; he thought every Moment an Hour, and every Hour a Day till he had enjoy'd her. Grown tir'd with fruitleſs Expectation, he orders a Porter to go the Coffee-Houſe, ask'd for her, and bring him word, why ſhe did not come according to the limited time? who brought him immediately this Anſwer, That ſhe quitted her Place that Day, and was gone they could not tell where, having pack'd up her Clothes and carried them with her. This made him ſuggeſt that what ſhe had done was acted with a Deſign to give him the Meeting according to the Appointment, therefore he was not ſo uneaſy as he was before the Porter return'd with the Meſſage.

It is impoſſible to expreſs the Extaſy of Paſſion he was in when he receiv'd the following Letter from her:

"PArdon me, worthy Sir, that I could not "wait on you according to your Expecta- "tion; for upon a ſecond Conſideration, I "thought it moſt adviſable to ſtay away. When "I can reſolve to be any body's W—— I will "be yours. I have no more to add at preſent, "but that I remain,

Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

A. B.

D——n

D--n the Bitch, *said he*, she has fairly chous'd me; but if ever I can catch her, I will certainly puniſh her for her Inſolence. What followed after? Why! the Cook endors'd the Note, put it into the Hands of an Attorney, who ſued him, and recovered the Money with Coſts of Suit.

Thus was that Lecher gull'd whoſe haughty love,
Deſign'd a Rape on the Queen Regent of the Gods above:
When he a Goddeſs thought he had in chace,
He found a gaudy Vapour in the Place,
And with thin Air beguil'd his ſtarv'd embrace.
Idly he ſpent his Spirits, ſpent his Blood,
And tir'd himſelf to oblige an unperforming Cloud.

He once hir'd two Siſters, whom he debauch'd, and threaten'd to turn them off; they do not live a Mile at this preſent Time from *Great Queen ſtreet*, near *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, where they live together very comfortably on that, as 'tis ſaid, they compelled *Don Franciſco* to give them; ſo that they compounded the Matter amicably before the Cauſe was brought to a Criſis, for 500 *l.* and then ſigned a general Releaſe.

The next Perſon that occurs in Courſe was the Parſon's Daughter, whom he violently aſſaulted with an Intent to Raviſh her; for he thought it an inglorious Poſition to be prov'd, that any Perſon that once liv'd with him ſhould be ſaid to leave his Service with an unblemiſh'd Reputation. His Houſe was a common and noted Seraglio, where, like a great and mighty Sultan, he riots in Bliſs, and ſurfeits in the Arms of his female Servants; his Men

Men may be compared to the Eunuchs in the Seraglio, that paſſively wait his abſolute Commands, and are ſubſervient to his debauch'd Courſe of Life.

The foregoing young Gentlewoman was hir'd into the Family, under pretence of waiting upon his Lady, who at that time was in the Country; but the unhappy Gentlewoman was not ſuffer'd to live and cohabit with him, or, what is moſt probable, voluntarily abſented from his Bed, becauſe ſhe could not tamely bear to ſee him purſue thoſe arbitrary, illegal and wicked Courſes of a diſſolute Life; for in his Actions he may be compared to *Cæſar Borgia*, when in an Extaſy of Paſſion he cries,

Yes, Machiavel, *ſhe ſhall be mine or dye.*
Should ſhe for Refuge to the Altars fly,
I'd after her, and there I'd quench my flame,
To the dumb Saints I would my Vows proclaim;
And in their View reſolve the glorious Game.
Upon the golden Shrines I'd lay her Head,
And even the Altar make my bridal Bed.

But to proceed. Some Time after ſhe was hir'd, *Don Franciſco* ſent for her up Stairs: She was no ſooner enter'd but he orders the Servant to lock the Door, and then threw her upon the Couch in the Room, pulls up her Cloaths, and rudely and violently aſſaulted her, which ſhe reſiſting prevented the Execution of his Project; when he found he could not accompliſh his Deſigns by force, he roſe in a great Fury, and took down a Piſtol that lay in the Room, which he cock'd and preſented to her Breaſt, ſwearing many a bitter Oath, that he would be the Death of her if ſhe did not ſpeedily condeſcend to let him enjoy her: The Perſon being

ing a young Woman of extraordinary Parts, Courage and Conduct, ſaid to him, *Oh fie! Sir, has not a Gentleman a more complaiſant Weapon than that to invite a Woman and induce her to gratify his Deſires. Yes, by G-d, Madam,* pulling out what God had ſent him. *I like that Weapon,* ſaid ſhe, *and think it ſo far preferable to the other, that if you will ſtrip and go to Bed, I will come to you as ſoon as conveniently I can undreſs myſelf.* Upon which he laid his Piſtol in the Window, undreſs'd, and ſoon got into Bed, in expectation that ſhe would have follow'd him: She began to undreſs herſelf, tho' ſeemingly with a great deal of Reluctance, whilſt he lay in Bed with all the Content and Satisfaction imaginable, not in the leaſt imagining that ſhe deſign'd to evade his luſtful Deſigns by that unparallel'd Reſolution to preſerve herſelf chaſte and intire, which ſhe demonſtratively prov'd as an addition to the reſt of her Qualifications, was innate and neceſſary at that critical Juncture; for ſhe no ſooner, by her ſideling by degrees, had got within reach of the Window, but ſhe clapp'd hold of the Piſtol, and in an extaſy of Rage, cry'd out, *You Monſter, Turk, Barbarian, ſay your Prayers, for the laſt Thread of your Life is ſpun; this Moment I will be revenged on you for the Indignity you deſign'd to offer: It is a Sin that ſuch a Brute ſhould live to triumph over the Weakneſs of our Sex.* He lay trembling at the thoughts of his approaching Fate, not ſuſpecting in the leaſt but that ſhe would have prov'd his Executioner, for ſhe look'd with Terror in her Countenance, her Eyes ſparkled with Fire, whilſt Thoughts more than Manly poſſeſs'd her Breaſt. At laſt ſhe rung the Bell, and as ſoon as the Servant had open'd the Door, ſhe clapp'd the Piſtol to his Breaſt, and ſolemnly ſwore,

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(a Method which she did not usually practice) that if he did not immediately obey her Orders she would be the Death of him; and by this Stratagem got safe into the Street with the Pistol cock'd in her Hand. Here she was immediately join'd by a vast Concourse of People, that with loud Acclamations prais'd both her Courage, Conduct and Resolution.

There has since been a Prosecution commenc'd against him, which, as I am inform'd, he has propos'd a very considerable Sum of Money to the young Lady's Agent or Attorney, provided she will sign him a General Release; but whether the Offer is accepted or rejected, Time only will discover.

Formerly a Servant of his that went by the Name of *Friz*, waited on *Francisco*: One Night at a certain Tavern, his Master order'd him to get him a W——; the Night being far spent, it was difficult to meet with a gamesome Lady suitable to his Inclination; however, *Friz* was resolved not to return empty handed, and therefore pick'd up the first Woman that he met with in the Streets, which being a little superannuated, was dislik'd by his Master, who thought his Servant knew him better than to furnish him with such a stale Commodity, and as a Mark of his Resentment took him to task, and severely corrected him for his Inadvertency. Poor *Friz* was not a little shagreen'd at his ill Treatment, and therefore resolv'd to quit his Service; and accordingly when he came home, he went about packing up what Things he had. His Lady was very sollicitous to know the Cause of this sudden Alteration, since he went out with his Master; but *Friz*, supposing that a Discovery would breed Discontent in the Family, was silent: At last, being so far impor-

turn'd by his Miſtreſs that he could no longer perſiſt in his Denial, reply'd, that his Maſter had ſent him to Market to buy a Fowl, but not having Judgment in Poultry, he brought him an old Hen inſtead of a young Pullet, for which his Maſter not only reprimanded him, but ſeverely corrected him. The Colonel being appriz'd that *Friz* had inform'd his Wife of what had happen'd, was preparing for an Anſwer againſt he came home. He no ſooner had enter'd the Doors, but his Lady ask'd him, How he could beat his Man ſo, or expect that he ſhould know an old Hen from a young Pullet? *Franciſco* preſently perceiv'd that *Friz* had not betray'd him, and was ſo well pleas'd with his Story, that he gave him a conſiderable Reward, and deſired him to continue in his Service.

The Information of Sarah Selleto, *Spinſter, taken before the Worſhipful Juſtice* Ellis *in* Pall-Mall, April 15, 1725.

THIS Day came before me *Sarah Selleto*, and made Oath, That about three Weeks after this Deponent arriv'd in Town, one Mrs. *Prat*, as this Deponent was walking in *Bow-Church-Yard*, came up to her, and after having asked her, what Countrywoman ſhe was? who reply'd, ſhe was a proud *Salopian*. Said ſhe, What brought you up to Town. That thereupon this Deponent told her, ſhe came up to *London* with a Deſign to go to Service. Do you want a Service, ſaid ſhe? what will you give me if I ſhould recommend you? Madam, ſaid this Deponent, I am a poor Country Wench, friendleſs and pennyleſs, and if you will be ſo charitable as to recommend me into a good Service, indeed I'll make you Satisfaction for your

Trouble

Trouble out of my firſt Wages which I ſhall receive. You ſpeak like a good honeſt Girl; and ſince you tell me that you are friendleſs, I'll be a Friend to you, if you will but follow my Advice: There is a worthy honeſt Gentleman of my Acquaintance that wants a Servant, and if he is not provided, I'll get you the Place; come along with me, I'll go with you this Inſtant about it. And this Deponent further ſays, that according to her Requeſt ſhe follow'd her into a Gentleman's Houſe in *New Bond-Street*; that when they were admitted, this Deponent was deſired to ſtay below Stairs whilſt Mrs. *Prat* was convey'd into *Don Franciſco's* Apartment, where ſhe continued ſome conſiderable time in private with him; and then this Deponent was ordered by one of the Servants to come up to her Maſter; that when ſhe came into the Room ſhe ſaw a fine Gentleman in a Silk Gown, who deſir'd her to draw near; that when he began to examine her, Mrs. *Prat* ſaid to him, you need not, good Sir, give yourſelf any Trouble about enquiring after her Character, for ſhe is a raw Country Girl, juſt come to Town, and knows no body; I met her by chance, and knowing that you wanted a Servant, I have brought her to you, and I dare be bound for her Honeſty. As ſhe is friendleſs, reply'd *Franciſco*, I deſign to be a Friend to her; and if ſhe will but obſerve my Dictates, ſhe ſhall find me an indulgent Maſter. This Deponent ſaith, that upon her Promiſe to conform herſelf to his juſt and regular Demands, he gave her a Guinea as a Gratuity, and deſir'd her to ſit down till his Steward came home, and then he would take care that ſhe ſhould have all Things neceſſary provided for her; and making a Signal to Mrs. *Prat*, ſhe paid her Reſpects to him, and then

retir'd,

retir'd. She was no ſooner gone, but he roſe up and ſhut the Door, and then declar'd to this Deponent in plain Terms that he muſt lye with her; upon which ſhe fell down upon her Knees, and begg'd for God's ſake that he would not ruin her. No, No, reply'd *Franciſco*, I do not deſign to ruin you; the Loſs of your Virginity will not ruin you, for I can aſſure you, that after you have taſted the pleaſing Tranſport, you will never repine at the Loſs of Virginity; beſides, my dear Girl, Fortune has deſign'd you for ſomething that is good; for there is no Woman that I debauch, but I make a handſome Proviſion for them afterwards.

This Deponent further ſaith, that after he had expreſs'd himſelf thus to her, he laid violent Hands on her, and threw her on the Bed, but upon her reſiſting, he clapp'd a Piſtol to her Breaſt, and threatned to ſhoot her if ſhe did not immediately comply; upon which ſhe pray'd that he would defer the Execution of his Deſigns till the Day following, and by that time ſhe might perhaps reſolve to gratify his Requeſt; that thereupon he call'd up a Female Servant, and ordered her to conduct her to her Apartment, and gave her ſtrict Command to lock the Door upon her and bring the Key down to him, which was accordingly done: And this Deponent ſaith, that in the Morning, by the break of Day, he came up into her Room in his Night Gown and Slippers, with a Piſtol in his Hand, and immediately ſtripp'd and got into Bed to her, where by the Violence which he then and there uſed, and the Terror of his Piſtol, which he held to her Breaſt even whilſt in Bed with her, he had carnal Knowledge of her: That he kept her locked up in that Room ſeveral Days, where he had free egreſs and free-

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greſs to her: And this Deponent further ſaith, that he gave her conſiderable Sums of Money at different Times, and bought her Cloaths: And this Deponent further ſaith, that when ſhe found herſelf pregnant, which was perceived by her Fellow Servants, ſhe imparted the Affair to her Maſter, who promiſed to take care of her, and aſſured her that ſhe ſhould want no Neceſſaries in her Lying-in; but that when he found ſhe was near her Time he pick'd a Quarrel with her, and turned her out of Doors: And this Deponent further ſaith, that ſhe is poſſitive the Infant in her Womb, is of his getting, becauſe ſhe never had known any Man but himſelf.

Jurat Coram me decimo quinto die Aprilis, Anno Domini Mileſſimo Septingeſſimo viceſſimo quinto.

Sign'd Sarah Selleto.

Upon this Information he was oblig'd to give Security to maintain the Child, and indemnify the Pariſh.

But let me not forget a notable Stratagem that happened between *Don Franciſco*, and a certain great Banker of the City of ———, about a conſiderable Sum of Money. He was very well aſſur'd, that the Banker knew his Hand-writing, and had Money of his lodged in his Hands; therefore he reſolved to draw a Bill upon him, payable for a certain Sum, which was to be ſent by a ſtrange Perſon, that was, upon the ſtricteſt Scrutiny, not to be found nor heard of, *ad infinitum*. This he conceived was the ſafeſt Way to get Money with Impunity, becauſe he thought it was not poſſible to

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prove that ever he ſent the Perſon for the Money, or that ever he received any. But he was miſtaken in his Conjecture; for both the Banker and his Servants were perfectly well acquainted with his Letters, his Stile, and his Language, to be deceived. They knew it was *Don Franciſco* drew the Note, tho' *Franciſco* did not receive the Money; and the Banker was aſſur'd, that let him uſe thoſe petty ſcandalous Arts to which ſome part of Mankind is frequently addicted, yet he had his own Hand-writing to teſtify againſt him. One might have thought that he had Affluence of Wealth enough to have kept him within the Bounds of moral Honeſty and downright Integrity. That Man that is honeſt by a *Pœna legis*, may not properly be ſaid to be honeſt by Inclination but by Compulſion; for *Cicero*, that learned Orator, affirms, that Law was the invention of human Wit, but ſomething eternal that govern'd the univerſal World by the wiſe Conduct of Command and Prohibition; and certainly it is to the wholeſome Laws of the Land for the Reſtitution of the Money, which otherways had been inevitably loſt; for when he applyed to *Franciſco* for the Money, he at firſt denied his own Hand-writing. It may be that his Hand was counterfeited; for there are a great many Villains, ill-deſigning People, that, like Vultures, prey upon the Bowels of the Commonwealth; and as the Genius and Dexterity of ſome People can counterfeit the publick Securities of the Nation; ſo it is probable that they may alſo unitate the Characters and Hand-writing of great Men for their own private Benefit and Advantage. However it may be, the Power of a ſupernatural Being can only rightly determine. It was well that it was a wealthy Citi-

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zen that paid the Money that had a large Fortune left to justify himself, and recover his Right, otherwise he must have sat down by the Loss of 5000 *l.* which was the direct Sum. On the other Hand, it was a Blessing that the Person for whose proper Use the Money was received, or whose Hand was counterfeited, was a Gentleman of a considerable Fortune, and was able to make good the Damage the Banker would have sustained, had he not pursued proper Measures for the Recovery and Payment of the Sums which he had advanced. It is certain, *Don Francisco* embarked for a certain Country, to try if he could discover and apprehend the Person that committed the Fraud: But his going on that frivolous Errand, as was reported, may be justly compared to a Man's looking for a Needle in a Bundle of Hay.

Sure *Cicero* mistook in his Oratory, when he said, *Ad decus & libertatem nati sumus*; seeing that *Don Francisco*, who was blest with all the Advantages of Life, should at last be liable to the Frowns of adverse Fate, and become the object of regal Pity and Compassion. He was indicted for committing a Rape on the Body of his Servant Maid, and upon a Certificate thereof, there was a Special Warrant issued out against him; but he having timely Notice thereof, kept out of the Way till he had prepared his Evidences, by the strength of which he hoped to evade the Penalties of the Law, which his Crimes justly deserved. Happy had it been for him had he compounded the Matter before it was brought to a Crisis, or he had been exposed to publick Censure, and the just and regular Complaints of the People.

Upon his being admitted to take his Trial, he came to the Court-house gallantly attended,

not in the leaſt ſuſpecting the fatal Conſequences that neceſſarily attend on ſuch illegal Practices. In fine, he ſtood unconcern'd, intirely depending on the ſtrength of his Evidences, who were moſt of them of his own Family, and who generally in their Depoſitions confounded themſelves by the improbability of the Facts which they related.

The Evidence that the Woman gave was very plain and full: She declar'd to the Court how ſhe was hir'd by a ſtrange Woman, who, in conſideration that the Proſecutor was poor and deſtitute, offered her Aſſiſtance to provide her a good Service, which ſhe readily and thankfully accepted, and accordingly went to the Houſe of the Priſoner, where ſhe was kindly received, and treated with a great deal of Diſtinction for the three firſt Days; but upon the fourth he made ſeveral conſiderable Offers to her, which ſhe rejected and refuſed with great Abhorrence; upon which he order'd the Doors to be lock'd, and would not ſuffer her to ſtir out. Nevertheleſs ſhe obſtinately refus'd to grant him his Deſires, tho' he continued every Day his Promiſes what he would do for her; till at laſt the fatal Day came, that what he could not obtain by his Intreaties and Proffers, he got by Force and Violence; which being credited by the Court, he was Capitally convicted.

There was after his Conviction great Intereſt made to ſave him; and his Wife (tho' he no Ways deſerved it) was indefatigable in her Solicitations. She is a Gentlewoman of a great many perſonal Endowments, who being ſenſible that all his Calamity and Diſtreſs are principally owing to that debauched Life to which he has been too frequently addicted, ſhe could not forbear complaining againſt his Conduct in

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giving such a Creature an opportunity to Ruin him; when he generally reply'd,

To my sick Thoughts no more a Woman tell,
Name not a Woman, and I shall grow well:
As a poor Lunatick that makes his moan,
And for a while beguiles the looker on;
He Reasons well, his Eyes their Wildness lose,
And vows his Keepers his wrong'd Sense abuse.
But should you speak the Cause that hurts his Brain,
Then his Teeth gnash, he foams, he shakes his Chain;
His Eye-Balls roll, and he grows Mad again.

FINIS.

FINIS.